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The Complete Tales of WASHINGTON IRVING



COLLECTED here for the first time anywhere are the 61 tales that so perfectly capture the magical atmosphere of the Hudson River Valley at the close of the 18th century. Probably everybody knows the story of the wild-eyed Ichabod Crane, fleeing in terror from the Headless Horseman—and the tale of the affable but henpecked Rip Van Winkle. Yet these are but two among the scores of stories that won Washington Irving a wide and appreciative audience during his lifetime and have continued to make his name a household word down to the present day. Here are such delightful and enchanting entertainments as "The Stout Gentleman," "Dolph Heyliger," "The Spectre Bridegroom," "The Story of the Young Robber," and "Annette Delarbre"—to name just a few. Here are ghost stories, comic sketches and jolly romances from America's first master of the demanding art of short story writing.

Washington Irving lived a long and productive life, and his work exerted a serious influence upon many important American writers who followed him. When he died in 1859, in Tarrytown, New York—near his beloved Sleepy Hollow—one commentator wrote that "thousands from far and near silently looked for the last time on his genial face, and mourned his loss as that of a personal friend and national benefactor." The sentiment is perfectly justified—for Irving was a great entertainer, a witty storyteller, and a consummate artist.

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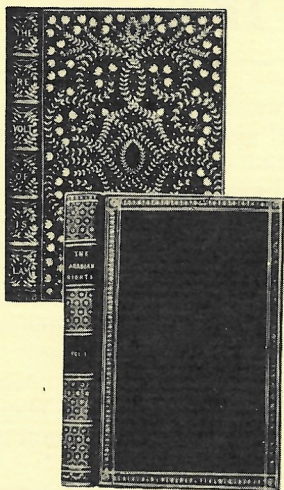
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